(c) if not, the status of the sons and progenies of judges in such appointment during the last three years along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the Judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, and the Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court dated October 28, 1998, the proposals for appointment of Judges in High Courts are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. The Government refers the recommendation of the Chief Justice of concerned High Court, the State Constitutional authorities and other inputs to the Chief Justice of India for advice. On receipt of the advice of the Chief Justice of India, the recommendations are processed for submission to PM/ President for approval. After approval, the Notification for the appointment of the person as a Judge of the High Court is issued.

Since recommendations for appointment of the Judges are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, Government is not maintaining any statistics about the status of progenies of judges in appointment of Judges of the High Court.

Increase in posts of High Court Judges

†2830. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for fixing the number of Judges in High Courts;

(b) the procedure for increasing the number of sanctioned posts of Judges in a High Court;

(c) whether any proposal to increase the number of sanctioned posts of Judges in Jharkhand High Courts is under consideration; and

(d) if not, whether Government intend to consider the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTCE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

As per the guidelines, the required strength of permanent Judges in a High Court is worked out by dividing the average institution of main cases during the last five years by the national average or the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher.

1.2 Similarly, the required strength of Additional judges in a High Court is worked out by dividing the number of main cases pending over two years by the national average or the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1.3 If the disposal per Judge in the concerned High Court is below even the national average then instead of increasing the strength, the concerned High Court is required to take steps for improvement in the rate of disposal of cases. If the average disposal of concerned High Court is above the national average then increase in Judge strength is accordingly considered. The strength of Additional Judges is reviewed only if there is an increase in the arrears of the pending cases during the last 5 years and the disposal per Judge is above the national average.

Mining lease to obulapuram mining company

2831. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission to Obulapuram Mining Company Pvt. Ltd to start mining lease to an extent of 68.5 hectares in survey No: 1 and 2 Siddapuram and Malapanagudi villages and in survey No: l/p of Obulapuram village of D. Hirehal Mandal, Ananthapur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh Government has shown favour to the Company, by recommending its application for grant of licence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for rejecting the application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mineral concessions. Prior approval of Central Government is required for grant of mineral concessions for the minerals specified in the First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act): Two proposals had been received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 5(1) of MMDR Act, 1957 for grant of mining lease for iron ore over an area of 68.50 hects. in Sy. Nos. 1 and 2 of Siddapuram and Malapanagudi villages and over an area of 39.481 hects. in Sy. No. l/P of Obulapuram village in D. Hirehal Mandal of district Anantapur in favour of M/s Obulapuram Mining Company Pvt. Ltd.. Both these proposals were examined as per the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, and prior approval of the Central Government on these proposals has been conveyed to the State Government on 25.5.2007.

Revival of Hindustan Copper Ltd.

2832. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have evolved a revival package for the Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has on 26.7.2007 approved the proposal for financial restructuring of Hindustan Copper Limited as under–